



# Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

## *Escambia County, FL*

### BACKGROUND

EPA awarded Escambia County supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. Located in the far western corner of Florida's panhandle, Escambia County has a geographical area of 661 square miles. Palafox Corridor, the gateway to the City of Pensacola (population 4,400), is the targeted Pilot community. The area is characterized by old houses, solid waste transfer stations, and unused railroad spurs. The city's economy, which is dependant on business generated from military installations, has suffered economically from industrial and military reshuffling. Twenty-seven percent of the city's residents have annual incomes of less than \$10,000. The combination of low-income employment, lay-offs in older industries, and contamination at former industrial sites has set the stage for much needed economic, environmental, and social redevelopment in Pensacola.

The Palafox Corridor Brownfield Redevelopment Area encompasses approximately 427 properties and includes 228 vacant acres. The boundaries of the Corridor were expanded in 2001 to include the sites of the former Town and County shopping mall and the former Builder's Square building supply company. The county's long-term goal is to redevelop the Palafox Corridor into a commercial, light industrial, or eco-commercial center.

### OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Pilot will use the supplemental assistance to continue to address environmental issues by conducting additional assessments in the brownfield area and encouraging reinvestment and redevelopment. The original EPA Pilot completed assessments at five sites in the target area. The county will use the supplemental funds to conduct Phase I and Phase II site assessments on the Town and County shopping mall and the Builder's Square building. A seven-acre, former auto junkyard also is targeted for assessment and redevelopment as a transit facility. Another major goal

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Escambia County, Florida*

**Date of Announcement:**  
May 2002

**Amount:** \$ 150,000

**Profile:** The Pilot will target three additional sites within the Palafox Corridor Brownfield Redevelopment Area, which has suffered economically from industrial and military reshuffling.

#### Contacts:

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Neighborhood and  
Environmental Services  
Department  
(850) 595-3496

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA Region 4  
(404) 562-8661

Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf/index.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
[www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields)

of the supplemental project will be to encourage redevelopment and reinvestment by increasing awareness of the program in Escambia County.

*Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:*

- Identifying and prioritizing additional sites for assessment;
- Developing site-specific quality assurance plans;

- Conducting Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments on three sites;
- Increasing awareness of the county's brownfields program through outreach and community involvement activities; and
- Evaluating site cleanup and reuse options and exploring models for redevelopment.

*The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.*